

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 06443 291528Z
ACTION OES-07

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TAGS: TGEN, IS
SUBJ: SEPT. 16 MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE; U.S.-ISRAEL
BINATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

REF: STATE 203529

1. ON AUGUST 25 BSF SENT BY INTERNATIONAL MAIL TO STATE AND
NSF (A) PAMPHLET CONTAINING DRAFT AGENDA AND DOCUMENTS FOR
EACH ITEM, (B) PAMPHLET DESCRIBING 246 GRANT
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY JULY 1977 AND (C) FINAL DRAFT OF
"SYNOPSIS 1974-1976" - THE BSF SELF EVALUATION REPORT.

2. THE SIX DRAFT AGENDA ITEMS PROPOSED BY BSF ARE LISTED
BELOW WITH RECOMMENDED U.S. POSITIONS.

A) PROGRESS REPORT - A SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF PROPOSALS RE-
CEIVED IN 1974. SCIATT RECOMMENDS ACCEPTANCE.

B) REPORT OF AD HOC COMMITTEE ON BSF POLICY FOR DISTRIBUTION
OF FUNDS. THE REPORT PRESENTS THREE MAIN FINDINGS/RE-
COMMENDATIONS. SCIATT AGREES WITH THE FIRST, THAT PRESENT
RATINGS METHODS ARE "ADEQUATE", BUT PREFERS THE WORDING
"PRESENT RATING METHODS USED BY BSF ARE ADEQUATE, BUT
IMPROVEMENT SHOULD BE SOUGHT". SECOND RECOMMENDATION
IS THAT "STANDARD SCORES" SHOULD BE USED. TENTATIVE
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FINDINGS BY BSF INDICATE THAT APPLICATION OF "STANDARD
SCORES" TO PRIOR YEAR GRANT APPLICATIONS PRODUCED ONLY
MINIMAL CHANGES IN RANK ORDERING OF PROPOSALS. SCIATT
RECOMMENDS FURTHER TESTING BEFORE USING A STANDARD
SCORES ROUTINELY. THIRD RECOMMENDATION IS THAT BSF SHOULD
SEEK MORE GOOD PROPOSALS IN SELECTED FIELDS. SCIATT
AGREES WITH FINDINGS UNDER THIS RECOMMENDATION,

PARTICULARLY (ITEM 3.3) THE RECOMMENDATION THAT BSF ENCOURAGE SUBMISSION OF PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS AND VISIT PROSPECTIVE GRANTEE INSTITUTIONS. SCIATT NOTES THAT REPORT ALLUDES TO SEVERAL SUBJECT AREAS AS CANDIDATES FOR EMPHASIS (ITEM 3.4 AND 3.5) BUT DOES NOT RECOMMEND ANY. IF BSF STAFF IS TO TAKE POSITIVE ACTION, DESIGNATION OF SUBJECT AREAS WHICH HAVE "POTENTIAL FOR FRUITFUL COOPERATION" SEEMS NECESSARY.

C) SUGGESTED BSF SPONSORSHIP OF A PLASMA PHYSICS WORKSHOP CORRESPONDENCE ON WHICH THIS PROPOSAL IS BASED INDICATES THAT THIS WORKSHOP WOULD BE USEFUL AND MAY LEAD TO MORE COOPERATIVE BSF PROJECTS. HOWEVER, SCIATT RECOMMENDS THAT IT NOT BE SUPPORTED BECAUSE PHYSICS PROJECTS ARE ALREADY THE SECOND LARGEST (1977) RECIPIENT OF BSF FUNDS. MORE SUPPORT FOR PHYSICS WOULD AGGRAVATE A PROBLEM WHICH THE BSF IS EVEN NOW TRYING TO AMELIORATE VIA THE AD HOC COMMITTEE (VAADIA-RONKIN). SCIATT RECOMMENDS THAT EXCOMM SUPPORT POLICY OF FUNDING A TRIAL WORKSHOP IN A FIELD SUCH AS REHABILITATION MEDICINE, ENVIROMENT OR ENERGY, WHICH COULD ALSO STIMULATE SUBMISSION OF GOOD PROPOSALS IN THESE FIELDS.

D) BSF PATENT POLICY. LEGAL ADVISER ARANNE EXPECTS TO COMPLETE BY AUG 30 REVIEW OF U.S. VERSION OF PATENT POLICY. SCIATT WILL SEND BY TELEGRAM THE FEW MINOR CHANGES ARANNE FORSEES.

E) 1976 ANNUAL REPORT - BSF EXPECTS TO COMPLETE AND MAIL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS BY ABOUT SEPT 1, ASKING FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF BOG BY OCT 15.

F) SYNOPSIS 1974-1976 - THIS BSF SELF-EVALUATION WAS ORDERED BY THE BOG AT ITS 1976 MEETING AS A PRE-REQUISITE TO DECIDING WHETHER TO "EXPLORE VIABLE AVENUES FOR POSSIBLE INCREASES OF FUNDING". SCIATT BELIEVES THAT SYNOPSIS AMPLY JUSTIFIES CONTINUING EXISTENCE OF BSF AND THAT CONSIDERATION SHOULD NOW BE GIVEN TO SEEKING NEW FUNDING AS SUGGESTED BELOW.

3. THE MAJOR PROBLEM CONFRONTING THE BSF, DEPLETION OF CAPITAL DUE TO DEVALUATION, IS NOT ON AGENDA. THE ORIGINAL ENDOWMENT OF IL 252 MILLION WAS THE EQUIVALENT OF US \$60 MILLION IN 1974. USING LATEST GOI AND EMBASSY PROJECTIONS, DEVALUATIONS AFTER JANUARY 1974 WILL MAKE IL 252 MILLION EQUAL APPROXIMATELY US\$20 MILLION BY JANUARY 1979, WITH A CONCOMITANT LOSS IN PURCHASING POWER. SCIATT RECOMMENDS THAT A NEW ITEM "MAINTENANCE OF BSF FUND" BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION OF (A) POSSIBLE SOURCES OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS AND (B) SHORT AND MEDIUM TERM EFFECTS ON BSF OF THIS RAPID

DEPLETION OF CAPITAL.

4. GOI DELEGATION WILL INCLUDE DVORETZKY, NEUFELD
AND ROTEM.
LEWIS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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